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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LE V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

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6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

22

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/758,549

Applicant(s)

OKADA, HIDEHIKO

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 2802 and 2803 of fig. 28.
28. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Drawings

2. Figure 29 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 3(d), and wherever applicable, is objected to because of the following informalities: "to detect in what position on the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next" in lines 20-21 of page 53 appears to contain a grammatical error. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 1(b), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "each operation" in line 12 of page 52. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1(b), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "said processing" in line 10 of page 52. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1(b), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "said selected use" in line 13 of page 52. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3(d), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the registered use" in line 5 of page 53. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4(a), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the applicable use" in line 24 of page 53. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4(c), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the operating sequence" in lines 8-9 of page 54. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 5(a) and 6(a), and wherever applicable, recite the limitation "the applicable use" in lines 26-27 of page 54 and lines 2-3 of page 56 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5(b), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the registered use" in line 1 of page 55. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5(b), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the use" in line 2 of page 55. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5(b), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the selected use" in line 3 of page 55. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6(f), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the widget-relation information" in line 19 of page 56. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6(i), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the widget correspondence information" in lines 28-29 of page 57. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6(j), and wherever applicable, recites the limitation "the registered widget correspondence information" in lines 28-29 of page 57. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

In claim 4, lines 5-7, it is unclear what is meant by "a step of detecting, upon booting said software, such booting of said software, and displaying the applicable use of the software on a screen of a display device".

In claim 5 and wherever applicable, lines 12-13, it is unclear what is meant by “in a menu on the cover screen in a menu”.

The examiner has given applicant examples of the errors that occur in claims 1-6. These errors should be used as a template when reviewing claims 7-23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schein et al. (“Schein”, US 6,412,110 B1).

As per claim 1, Schein teaches a GUI control method comprising the processing of:

- a) displaying the applicable use, previously registered in a storage unit, of a software running on a computer, on a screen of a display apparatus in a menu form (figs. 14-27B); and
- b) displaying a GUI widget to be operated next in a display style highlighting the widget from other widgets on the screen in accordance with an operating sequence previously registered in the storage unit, on selection of the use on the menu (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42; *users select the use on the menu, e.g. fig. 20, and GUI widgets are displayed, e.g. “Record once...” and “Cancel/Go Back” of fig. 21, wherein the GUI widget to be operated next is highlighted and*

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displayed with another widget such as "Cancel/Go Back"), wherein the processing of displaying of the applicable use and the processing of displaying the GUI widget are performed from one processing to another upon each operation to guide the operating sequence of realizing the selected use (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42; upon selection of the applicable use, e.g. recording glyph 208, the GUI widget such as "Record once..." is then displayed, serving to guide the operation sequence of the selection of the applicable use to the prescribed next step).

Claim 8 is similar in scope to claim 1 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

9. Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (US 5,933,141).

As per claim 2, Smith teaches a GUI control method comprising displaying a cover screen hiding an inherent screen of a software on a display device and (col. 7, lines 30-32; *web browser application program 504 overlays/covers television source 502*) displaying the applicable use of the software in a menu form on the cover screen (figs. 2-6B; col. 7, lines 30-39; *control panel 508 displays the use of the software in a menu form on the cover screen*).

Claim 9 is similar in scope to claim 2 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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11. Claims 3-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein et al. ("Schein", US 6,412,110 B1) in view of Nason et al. ("Nason", US 6,437,809 B1).

As per claim 3, Schein teaches a GUI control method comprising (col. 11, lines 3-39):

a) a step of previously registering in a storage unit the applicable use of a software adapted for running on a computer, said software having a GUI (col. 5, line 61 through col. 6, line 6; figs. 14-27B);

b) a step of displaying the registered use as a menu on a screen of a display device, inputting an operational sequence of the software, as required for utilizing the software in the use, to register in the storage unit, for each use displayed on the menu (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42);

c) a step comprising detecting an action on the GUI widget, instructing, in accordance with the previously registered operating sequence, to detect in what position on the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next and displaying the GUI widget in a highlighted fashion on the screen, in accordance with the detected display location of the GUI widget (fig. 2-22; col. 13, lines 16-26; col. 13, lines 34-39; *detecting an action on the "Record once..." / GUI widget and instructing the system to detect in what position on the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next and displaying the GUI widget in a highlighted fashion on the screen, e.g. "Okay", wherein the instructing in accordance with the previously registered operating sequence is inherent given that described are steps in a process*);

d) on selection of the use from the menu, running the software code or booting the files as required for the selected use (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42; *wherein running the software code or booting the files are inherent in order for the required resultant action of the use*

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selection to occur), detecting in what location in the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next, in accordance with the operating sequence previously registered for the selected use, is displayed (figs. 14-27B; *displayed is a GUI widget to be acted on next such as "Record once..." of fig. 21, wherein the GUI widget to be acted on next constitutes a step within a hierarchical order of the operating sequence already previously registered and wherein detecting what location the GUI widget is displayed is inherent so that the system may perform the intended action associated with users' selection*) and displaying the detected GUI widget in a highlighted fashion on the screen in accordance with a detected display location of the GUI widget (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42; *GUI widget "Record once..." is displayed and highlighted wherein a detected display location of the GUI widget is inherent given that the GUI widget is highlighted*).

Schein does not explicitly disclose a step comprising booting, on selection of the use from the menu, the software as required for the selected use. Smith teaches a GUI control method comprising a) a step of previously registering in a storage unit the applicable use of a software adapted for running on a computer, said software having a GUI and displaying the registered use as a menu on a screen of a display device (figs. 5-9; *the use of a software displays the use in as menus and submenus*), and d) a step comprising booting, on selection of the use from the menu, the software as required for the selected use (col. 16, lines 24-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Smiths' step of booting, on selection of the use from the menu, the software as required for the selected use in a GUI control method to Schein's step of, on selection of the use from the menu, running the software code or booting the files as required for the selected use in a GUI control method in order to allow users a method of downloading another type of file data.

As per claim 7, the modified method of Schein and Smith teaches a GUI control method wherein in executing the GUI control, there is no necessity to modify the software (Schein: col. 11, lines 3-39)

Claim 4 is similar in scope to claim 3 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

12. Claims 5-6 and 10-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein et al. ("Schein", US 6,412,110 B1) in view of Smith et al. (US 5,933,141) and further in view of Nason et al. ("Nason", US 6,630,943 B1).

As per claim 5, Schein teaches a GUI control method comprising the steps of (col. 11, lines 3-39):

a) registering in a storage unit the applicable use of a software adapted for running on a computer, said software having a GUI (col. 5, line 61 through col. 6, line 6; figs. 14-27B);

b) displaying the registered use as a menu on a screen of a display device, inputting an operational sequence of the software, as required for utilizing the software in the use, to register in the storage unit, for each use displayed on the menu (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42);

c) on selection of the use from the menu, running software code or booting files as required for the selected use (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42; *wherein running the software code or booting the files are inherent in order for the required resultant action of the use selection to occur*),

d) detecting an action on the GUI widget, instructing, in accordance with the previously registered operating sequence, to detect in what position on the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next and displaying the GUI widget in a highlighted fashion on the screen, in accordance with the detected display location of the GUI widget (fig. 2-22; col. 13, lines 16-26; col. 13, lines 34-

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39; detecting an action on the "Record once..." GUI widget and instructing the system to detect in what position on the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next and displaying the GUI widget in a highlighted fashion on the screen, e.g. "Okay", wherein the instructing in accordance with the previously registered operating sequence is inherent given that described are steps in a process);

e) previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget ();

f) detecting in what location in the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next, in accordance with the operating sequence previously registered for the selected use, is displayed (figs. 14-27B; displayed is a GUI widget to be acted on next such as "Record once..." of fig. 21, wherein the GUI widget to be acted on next constitutes a step within a hierarchical order of the operating sequence already previously registered and wherein detecting what location the GUI widget is displayed is inherent so that the system may perform the intended action associated with users' selection) and displaying the detected GUI widget in a highlighted fashion on the screen in accordance with a detected display location of the GUI widget (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42; GUI widget "Record once..." is displayed and highlighted wherein a detected display location of the GUI widget is inherent given that the GUI widget is highlighted).

g) issuing an operating event to the detected GUI widget (figs. 14-27B).

Schein does not explicitly disclose a step comprising the steps of: booting, on selection of the use from the menu, the software as required for the selected use; previously registering in a storage unit a screenshot for utilizing the booted software in the selected use, as a cover screen; hiding an

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inherent screen of the software booted from view and visibly displaying the registered cover screen; detecting an action on a GUI widget displayed on the cover screen, followed by displaying the next cover screen; previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget on the cover screen; and, detecting, in accordance with the registered widget-relation information, in what location on the inherent screen of the software the GUI widget to be acted on next is being displayed. Smith teaches a GUI control method comprising the steps of:

a) previously registering in a storage unit the applicable use of a software adapted for running on a computer, said software having a GUI and displaying the registered use as a menu on a screen of a display device (figs. 5-9; *the use of a software displays the use in as menus and submenus*);

b) displaying the registered use as a menu on a screen of a display device, inputting an operational sequence of the software, as required for utilizing the software in the use, to register in the storage unit, for a use displayed on the menu ();

c) booting, on selection of the use from the menu, the software as required for the selected use (col. 16, lines 24-46); previously registering in a storage unit a screenshot for utilizing the booted software in the selected use, as a cover screen; hiding an inherent screen of the software booted from view and visibly displaying the registered cover screen (figs. 20-21; col. 12, lines 12-19; col. 25, lines 20-21; *the pop-up remote control serves as an overlay/cover screen and provides functions complementary to the service page that launched it wherein the*

service page is the service page that booted the software and wherein the inherent screen of the software booted is hidden from view by the pop-up remote control/cover screen);

d) detecting an action on a GUI widget displayed on the cover screen, followed by displaying the next cover screen (col. 25, lines 20-27; *a GUI widget on the pop-up remote/cover screen is capable of invoking another cover screen via such commands as forward/back or help*);

e) previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget on the cover screen (figs. 20-21; col. 12, lines 12-19; col. 25, lines 20-21; *the pop-up remote control serves as an overlay/cover screen and provides functions complementary to the service page that launched it*); and,

f) detecting, in accordance with the registered widget-relation information, in what location on the inherent screen of the software the GUI widget to be acted on next is being displayed (inherent).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Smiths' step of booting, on selection of the use from the menu, the software as required for the selected use and previously registering in a storage unit a screenshot for utilizing the booted software in the selected use, as a cover screen and the steps associated with having a cover screen as described above in a GUI control method to Schein's step of, on selection of the use from the menu, running the software code or booting the files as required for the selected use in a GUI control method in order to allow a user a method of downloading another type of file data as well as providing the user with a control with which the user is familiar and intuitive to use.

Although the modified method of Schein and Smith teaches previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget on the cover screen and detecting, in accordance with the registered widget-relation information, in what location on the inherent screen of the software the GUI widget to be acted on next is being displayed in a GUI to assist users in sorting through information (figs. 20-21; col. 12, lines 12-19; col. 25, lines 20-21), the modified method of Schein and Smith still fails to disclose the step of copying data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software in the GUI widget on the cover screen in accordance with the registered widget correspondence information and previously registering the widget-relation information as to in which GUI widget on the cover screen the data displayed on GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be copied. Nason teaches a GUI control method comprising the step of copying data displayed in the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software to the GUI widget on the cover screen in accordance with a widget correspondence information and previously registering in the storage unit the widget correspondence information as to in what GUI widget on the cover screen data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be copied (col. 13, lines 39-48; col. 21, lines 9-21 and lines 36-41; col. 22, lines 12-20; col. 13, lines 58-59 *disclosed is a parallel GUI, i.e. another GUI, wherein data is copied from a first GUI to a second GUI*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nason's teaching of a GUI control method to assist users in sorting through information comprising the step of copying data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software to the GUI widget on the cover screen in accordance with a widget correspondence information and previously registering

in the storage unit the widget correspondence information as to in what GUI widget on the cover screen data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be copied to the modified Schein and Smith's teaching of a GUI control method to assist users in sorting through information comprising the step of previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget on the cover screen and detecting, in accordance with the registered widget-relation information, in what location on the inherent screen of the software the GUI widget to be acted on next is being displayed in order to provide users with an implementation preference.

As per claim 6, Schein teaches a GUI control method comprising:

a) a step of previously registering in a storage unit the applicable use of a software adapted for running on a computer, the software having a GUI (col. 5, line 61 through col. 6, line 6; figs. 14-27B);

b) a step of detecting, on booting the software, such booting, to hide an inherent screen of the software booted from view, thereby visibly displaying the registered cover screen in place of the inherent screen and displaying the applicable use of the booted software in a menu on the cover screen in a menu (Abstract; col. 1, lines 36-43; col. 5, lines 61-65; figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42)

c) a step of displaying, on selection of use from the menu, the cover screen being registered for the selected use (col. 25, lines 20-27; *the system detects a selection*);

d) detecting in what location in the screen a GUI widget to be acted on next, in accordance with the operating sequence previously registered for the selected use, is displayed

(figs. 14-27B; *displayed is a GUI widget to be acted on next such as "Record once..." of fig. 21, wherein the GUI widget to be acted on next constitutes a step within a hierarchical order of the operating sequence already previously registered and wherein detecting what location the GUI widget is displayed is inherent so that the system may perform the intended action associated with users' selection*) and displaying the detected GUI widget in a highlighted fashion on the screen in accordance with a detected display location of the GUI widget (figs. 14-27B; col. 13, lines 16-42; *GUI widget "Record once..." is displayed and highlighted wherein a detected display location of the GUI widget is inherent given that the GUI widget is highlighted*).

e) previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget ();

f) previously registering a screenshot for utilizing the software in the use as a cover screen in the storage unit (figs. 14-27B); and

g) issuing an operating event to the detected GUI widget (figs. 14-27B).

Schein does not explicitly disclose a step comprising the steps of: previously registering in a storage unit a screenshot for utilizing the booted software in the selected use, as a cover screen; detecting an action on a GUI widget displayed on the cover screen to display a next cover screen; and, previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be actuated upon actuation of any GUI widget on the cover screen. Smith teaches a GUI control method comprising the steps of:

previously registering in a storage unit a screenshot for utilizing the booted software in the selected use, as a cover screen (figs. 20-21; col. 12, lines 12-19; col. 25, lines 20-21; *the*

pop-up remote control serves as an overlay/cover screen and provides functions complementary to the service page that launched it wherein the service page is the service page that booted the software and wherein the inherent screen of the software booted is hidden from view by the pop-up remote control/cover screen);

detecting an action on a GUI widget displayed on the cover screen to display a next cover screen (col. 25, lines 20-27); and

previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be actuated upon actuation of any GUI widget on the cover screen (figs. 20-21; col. 12, lines 12-19; col. 25, lines 20-21).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Smiths' step of booting, on selection of the use from the menu, the software as required for the selected use and previously registering in a storage unit a screenshot for utilizing the booted software in the selected use, as a cover screen and the steps associated with having a cover screen as described above in a GUI control method to Schein's step of, on selection of the use from the menu, running the software code or booting the files as required for the selected use in a GUI control method in order to allow a user a method of downloading another type of file data as well as providing the user with a control with which the user is familiar and intuitive to use.

Although the modified method of Schein and Smith teaches previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget on the cover screen and detecting, in accordance with the registered widget-relation information, in what location on the inherent screen of the software the GUI widget to be acted on next is being displayed in a GUI to assist

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users in sorting through information (figs. 20-21; col. 12, lines 12-19; col. 25, lines 20-21), the modified method of Schein and Smith still fails to disclose the step of copying data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software in the GUI widget on the cover screen in accordance with the registered widget correspondence information and previously registering the widget-relation information as to in which GUI widget on the cover screen the data displayed on GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be copied. Nason teaches a GUI control method comprising the step of copying data displayed in the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software to the GUI widget on the cover screen in accordance with a widget correspondence information and previously registering in the storage unit the widget correspondence information as to in what GUI widget on the cover screen data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be copied (col. 13, lines 39-48; col. 21, lines 9-21 and lines 36-41; col. 22, lines 12-20; col. 13, lines 58-59 *disclosed is a parallel GUI, i.e. another GUI, wherein data is copied from a first GUI to a second GUI and data on the cover screen being copied to the inherent screen*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nason's teaching of a GUI control method to assist users in sorting through information comprising the step of copying data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software to the GUI widget on the cover screen in accordance with a widget correspondence information and previously registering in the storage unit the widget correspondence information as to in what GUI widget on the cover screen data displayed on the GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be copied to the modified Schein and Smith's teaching of a GUI control method to assist users in sorting through information comprising the step of previously registering in the storage unit widget-relation information as to

what GUI widget on the inherent screen of the software is to be acted on upon acting onto any GUI widget on the cover screen and detecting, in accordance with the registered widget-relation information, in what location on the inherent screen of the software the GUI widget to be acted on next is being displayed in order to provide users with an implementation preference as well as permitting communication to flow in both directions.

Claim 10 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 11 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 12, the modified Schein, Smith and Nason teaches a GUI control apparatus comprising means for displaying a GUI widget for notifying the completion of processing on a current screen wherein the operation detection unit detects an operation performed on the GUI widget is detected by the widget detection unit or on the GUI widget displayed on the screen (Nason: col. 11, lines 61-63).

As per claim 13, the modified Schein, Smith and Nason teaches a GUI control apparatus comprising means for displaying a GUI widget for notifying the completion of processing on a current screen wherein the operation detection unit detects an operation performed on the GUI widget is detected by the widget detection unit or on the GUI widget displayed on the screen (Nason: col. 11, lines 61-63).

Claim 14 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 15 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 16 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 17 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 18 the modified Schein, Smith and Nason teaches a GUI control apparatus comprising means for displaying a GUI widget for notifying the completion of processing on a current screen wherein the operation detection unit detects an operation performed on the GUI widget is detected by the widget detection unit or on the GUI widget displayed on the screen (Nason: col. 11, lines 61-63).

As per claim 19, the modified Schein, Smith and Nason teaches a GUI control apparatus comprising means for displaying a GUI widget for notifying the completion of processing on a current screen wherein the operation detection unit detects an operation performed on the GUI widget is detected by the widget detection unit or on the GUI widget displayed on the screen (Nason: col. 11, lines 61-63).

Claim 20 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 21 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 22 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 23 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 5 and 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Filepp et al. (US 5,796,967) teach a method for presenting applications in an interactive service.

Gordon et al. (US 6,208,335 B1) teach a method and apparatus for providing a menu structure for an interactive information distribution system.

Sakaguchi (US 6,603,492 B1) teaches a method and apparatus for generating and displaying a conceal window.

Endo (US 5,963,610) teaches a control device for image input apparatus.

Habib et al. (US 5,825,356) teach a help system with semitransparent window for disabling controls.

Buxton et al. (US 5,798,752) teach user interface having simultaneously movable tools and cursor.

Coleman et al. (US 5,828,374) teach a method and apparatus for selecting characters along a scroll bar with a slider.

Williams (US 5,689,663) teaches a remote controller user interface and methods relating thereto.

Frank et al. (US 5,651,107) teach a method and apparatus for presenting information in a display system using transparent windows.

Nason et al. (US 6, 437,809 B1) teach a secondary user interface.

Inquires

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7601. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

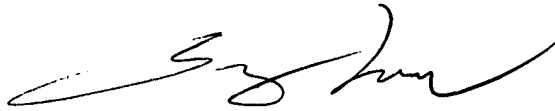
(703) 746-7238 [After Final Communication]

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

(703) 746-7240 [For status inquiries, Draft Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Lê Nguyen
Patent Examiner
November 14, 2003


SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER